

## **News Release**

For Immediate Release: March 19, 2020

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## County announces launch of "Kūpuna Kare of Farmer Fare" program and economic partnership with Kaua'i's Sunshine Market vendors and Kaua'i Food Bank

LĪHU'E – The County of Kauai announces the launch of the "Kūpuna Kare of Farmer Fare" program in an effort to deliver fresh Kaua'i grown produce directly to kūpuna. This effort pairs Kauai's Sunshine Market vendors, the Kauai Food Bank, and the County's Economic Development and Elderly Affairs offices. This program will acquire produce from our County Sunshine Market Farmers and distribute to our high risk kūpuna over the age of 70 throughout the island.

The Agency on Elderly Affairs will provide intake on kūpuna that would like to participate in this program.

The Office of Economic Development, part of the Mayor's office, will do intake on county Sunshine Market Farmers who would like to take part.

The program will also utilize a partner, the Hawai'i Foodbank Inc., to purchase produce from farmers, prep the packages, and perform distribution to kūpuna.

To prevent the spread of disease, this program has been designed to be drop-off only, with no interaction between the deliverers and recipient.

"We are pleased to roll out a partnership to support two specific groups - our kūpuna who are part of our high risk population, and our county farmers who have been displaced by

the Sunshine Market closures," said Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami. "This effort shows how the tenacity and innovativeness of our community can lead to solutions that help one another as we enter a very difficult economic time."

If you are a 70+ year old kūpuna who would like to participate in this program please call the Agency on Elderly Affairs at 241-4470.

If you are a Sunshine Market farmer who would like to participate in this program please call 241-4299.

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